# Fire Danger Potential AICC-Predictive Services Monday, June 26, 2006

**Wet Thunderstorms in the Interior and Scattered to Isolated Showers Statewide** 

# Rain Again South of the Alaska Range

Weather Discussion: The upper level low that has been in the Gulf of Alaska has spawned another low that moved into the Yukon Territory last night and will be again instigating showers, thunderstorms and locally heavy rainfall in portions of the upper Tanana Valley. The portion of the low in the Gulf of Alaska will bring another day of rain to areas south of the Alaska Range. Another low in the Bering Sea is poised to move into western Alaska tonight with light rain and increasing winds in the coastal areas. A weak ridge over the interior will be pushed out by westerly flow from this low the next few days but still has enough instability today and tomorrow for scattered showers and thunderstorms.

The longer range models (beyond 3 days) continue to be all over the place with one scenario showing warming and drying over the south and breezy with occasional rain in the north followed by a large ridge in the 7-10 day period. The other version keeps a wet westerly flow over most of mainland Alaska through the week. What is consistent is that westerly flow aloft will dominate the weather at least over northern Alaska and thunderstorms will diminish.

<u>Fire Danger Discussion:</u> Currently the conditions reflect low to moderate fire danger throughout most of the state. The interior has some stations reporting moderate to high fire danger which will change with expected precipitation or higher humidity. Thunderstorms are expected to decline into the next week in the Interior. Fine Fuel Moisture Code – FFMC's may be lowered decreasing ignition potential and fire surface spread. Winds may influence the spread potential especially in areas that are dryer and have higher indices.

# South Central and the Copper River Basin

#### Discussion

Surface conditions are moderate in South Central with low to moderate fire danger. The Copper River Valley is moderate with a chance of rebound with drying later in the week.

#### Weather

Mostly cloudy skies and wetting rain tapering off through the week to slow drying and warming.

Day	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Date	6/26	6/27	6/28	6/29	6/30	7/01	7/02
Fire Danger	2	2	2	2	3	3	3

#### Southwest Alaska

#### Discussion

Conditions suggest moderate conditions in the McGrath zone. Stoney River has a slightly higher Fire Weather Index value. The remaining area is in moderate fire danger.

#### Weather

Mostly cloudy with occasional showers. A possibility of clearing and drying this weekend.

Day	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Date	6/26	6/27	6/28	6/29	6/30	7/01	7/02
Fire	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Danger			3		<b>-</b>	3	3

### Western Alaska

#### **Discussion**

Galena zone is currently in moderate fire danger. With forecasted weather fire danger should remain somewhat moderate or even low with rain events occurring.

#### Weather

Starting out partly to mostly cloudy with scattered showers. By the end of the week westerly flow will bring cloudy and rain weather to all but the extreme south.

Day	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Date	6/26	6/27	6/28	6/29	6/30	7/01	7/02
Fire Danger	3	3	3	3	2	2	2

#### Interior

#### Discussion

Fire danger is still high at several stations in the interior but cloudy weather and humidity will tend to decrease fire danger in the next week.

#### Weather

Continued scattered showers and thunderstorms for 2 more days then partial clearing followed by an increase in clouds and some light rain by the end of the week. Some areas of the eastern interior have received large amounts of rainfall over the past week.

Day	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Date	6/26	6/27	6/28	6/29	6/30	7/01	7/02
Fire Danger	4	3	3	3	3	3	3

# Southeast Alaska

# Discussion

The current and expected weather conditions suggest low fire danger in the panhandle of Alaska.

# Weather

Low pressure in the Gulf of Alaska will continue clouds and rain and high RH to the Panhandle the next 3 days. Clearing, warming and drying are expected by the weeks end.

Day	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Date	6/26	6/27	6/28	6/29	6/30	7/01	7/02
Fire	4	4	4	4	4	4	2
Danger							2

Please send an e-mail if you have any comments.

Thank You,

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	Fire Intensity	Color	Description
	Rank		C-2 Boreal Spruce (Black Spruce)
Low	1	Green	New fire starts unlikely – smoldering
Moderate	2	Blue	Sustained ignitions - creeping
High	3	Yellow	Vigorous surface fire- some torching
Very High	4	Orange	Intermittent crown fire – spotting - critical
Extreme	5	Red	Continuous crowning – control problems